to help you plan
in handy lists
highlights

In This Book

QuickStart Guide
Your keys to understanding the city – we help you decide what to do and how to do it

Need to Know
Tips for a smooth trip
Neighborhoods
What’s where

Explore Austin
The best things to see and do, neighborhood by neighborhood

Top Sights
Make the most of your visit
Local Life
The insider’s city

The Best of Austin
The city’s highlights in handy lists to help you plan

Best Walks
See the city on foot
Austin’s Best...
The best experiences

Survival Guide
Tips and tricks for a seamless, hassle-free city experience

Getting Around
Travel like a local
Essential Information
Including where to stay
Our selection of the city’s best places to eat, drink and experience:

- Sights
- Eating
- Drinking
- Entertainment
- Shopping

These symbols give you the vital information for each listing:

- Telephone Numbers
- Opening Hours
- Parking
- Nonsmoking
- Internet Access
- Wi-Fi Access
- Vegetarian Selection
- English-Language Menu
- Family-Friendly
- Pet-Friendly
- Bus
- Ferry
- Metro
- Subway
- Tram
- Train

Find each listing quickly on maps for each neighborhood:

Lonely Planet’s Austin

Lonely Planet Pocket Guides are designed to get you straight to the heart of the city. Inside you’ll find all the must-see sights, plus tips to make your visit to each one really memorable. We’ve split the city into easy-to-navigate neighborhoods and provided clear maps so you’ll find your way around with ease. Our expert authors have searched out the best of the city: walks, food, nightlife and shopping, to name a few. Because you want to explore, our ‘Local Life’ pages will take you to some of the most exciting areas to experience the real Austin.

And of course you’ll find all the practical tips you need for a smooth trip: itineraries for short visits, how to get around, and how much to tip the guy who serves you a drink at the end of a long day’s exploration. It’s your guarantee of a really great experience.

Our Promise

You can trust our travel information because Lonely Planet authors visit the places we write about, each and every edition. We never accept freebies for positive coverage, so you can rely on us to tell it like it is.
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A big city with a small-town heart, Austin earns the love with great music, fantastic parks, culinary prowess and an irresistible sociable streak. The South by Southwest (SXSW) and Austin City Limits music festivals enjoy international acclaim, but quality performances go down nightly. Parks thrum with hikers, runners and cyclists, who refuel at world-class food trucks. ‘Hey ya’ll’ friendliness ties it all together.
Texas State Capitol (p26)
Big history, big building.

Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum (p28)
Remember the Alamo and more!